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GERMANY.

Report from Berlin—Plague and cholera in various countries.

Consul-General Mason reports, March 18, as follows:

Plague.

British India.—During the week ended February 20 there were registered in the Bombay Presidency 9,582 plague cases (and 7,144 deaths), of which 749 cases (652 deaths) occurred in the city of Bombay, 92 cases (65 deaths) in Karachi, and 5 cases (5 deaths) in Broach.

New South Wales.—According to a report dated March 10 a case of plague has occurred in Sydney.

Plague and cholera.

British India.—In Calcutta, during the week ended February 6, 14 persons died of cholera and 50 persons died of plague.

Cholera.

Turkey.—According to Bulletin No. 6, there were registered between February 21 and 29, in Basra, 30 cases of cholera and 25 deaths.

Death rate of Berlin and other cities.

The death rate of Berlin for the week ended March 12 amounted to 15.6 per thousand of the population, and thus corresponded almost exactly with the figure for the same week of last year. Of the large towns and cities of Germany almost two-thirds showed less favorable figures than Berlin, including Munich, Nuremberg, Cologne, Leipzig, Hanover, Breslau, Bremen, as well as London, Paris, and Vienna. On the other hand, the rate of mortality of the following cities was lower than the Berlin figure, namely: Hamburg, Frankfort-on-the-Main, Düsseldorf, Charlottenburg (with 12.2), Schöneberg (with 10.4), and Rixdorf (with 14.4). The deaths among children in the first year of life have considerably decreased since the foregoing week, the infant mortality rate amounting to 3.5 per year and mille, being thus lower than the Hamburg and Munich figure. Cases of acute intestinal disease were less frequent, while acute diseases of the respiratory organs showed an increase, the former claiming 27 and the latter 62 victims. Furthermore, there were registered 89 deaths from phthisis pulmonalis, 41 deaths from cancer, 14 deaths from measles, 5 deaths from scarlet fever, 5 deaths from diphtheria, 6 deaths from influenza. Finally, 19 persons died by violence.

INDIA.

Reports from Bombay—Transactions of service.

Acting Asst. Surg. Edward H. Hume reports, March 5, 11, and 12, as follows:

Week ended March 5, 1904: Sanitary certificate (consular) No. 44, granted to 1 shipment of 2,000 baskets of onions, consigned to Manila, P. I., and shipped per steamship *Franz Ferdinand*, an Austrian vessel.

Week ended March 2, 1904: Sanitary certificate (consular) No. 45, granted to 1 shipment of 3,000 baskets of onions consigned to Manila, P. I., and shipped per Austrian steamship *Franz Ferdinand*. The certificates were on a special form drawn up by the consul, and stated that the onions were grown in Nasik, 100 miles distant from Bombay, in a district free from cholera, and that they were deemed free from infection as far as could be determined.

Sanitary certificate (consular) No. 46, to Messrs. Thomas Cook & Son, regarding the corpse of an American tourist who died in Agra of chronic diarrhea during the previous week. The body was shipped per steamship *Circassia*, to be transshipped in Glasgow to another vessel of the Anchor Line bound for New York. The certificate was on a special form and stated that the individual had died from a non-infectious disease, and that the corpse was suitably encased for shipment.

Arrival of U. S. S. San Francisco en route to Manila.

The U. S. S. *San Francisco*, Captain Very, arrived in Bombay from Beirut on February 28 and sailed for Manila, P. I., via Singapore, on March 6. There had been no cases of infectious disease on board since leaving Beirut, nor were there any occurring during the vessel's stay here. In view of the prevalence of plague and the impossibility of restraining or supervising men after they get ashore, it seemed wisest to the captain not to allow the crew to come ashore at all. No disinfection was therefore needed on the ship.

In compliance with Department letter dated February 9, 1904, which I have the honor to acknowledge, no bills of health were issued, as none were requested by the commanding officer or medical officer.

Health of Bombay—One case of sporadic cholera—Progress of plague.

| | Week of— | | | Average of corresponding week, previous five years. |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---|
| | Mar. 1, 1904. | Mar. 8, 1904. | Mar. 10, 1903. | |
| Plague deaths | 832 | 968 | 1,264 | 1,035 |
| Mortality rate | 55.75 | 64.60 | 84.70 | 30.69 |
| Total deaths | 1,420 | 1,574 | 1,996 | 2,264 |
| Mortality rate | 95.15 | 105.47 | 133.75 | 148.21 |
| Smallpox deaths | 14 | 19 | 88 | 76 |
| Cholera deaths | 0 | 1 | 0 | 6 |

No deaths from typhus. The only death from cholera occurred in an orphanage, and so far as I can determine the case started as one of severe indigestion. No cases had previously occurred in the vicinity, nor has there been a single one since. If true cholera, it must be regarded as a sporadic case. Bombay water is so pure that neither cholera nor typhoid can be ascribed to it, and cases of these diseases must be due to contamination of vegetables or fruits, possibly to the contamination of milk in the dirty dairies which abound in the city.